

13

A True and Faithful

# TESTIMONY

CONCERNING

## John Samm,

The Servant of the

## LORD,

Who finished his Course, by laying down his life in

### NORTHAMPTON GOAL,

FOR THE

### TRUTH of JESUS,

The 26th of the 1st. Month, 1664.

Written by John Crook, who had perfect knowledge  
of him from the beginning.

With an Exhortation unto all the Righteous, to be  
watchful, to take due notice of all the dealings of the Lord,  
especially of his taking away (of late) so many faithful La-  
bourers in his Work; and to you principally in the Coun-  
ties of *Bedfordshire*, (where his outward dwelling was) *Bucks*,  
*Hertford*, *Cambridge*, *Huntington*, *Ely*, and *Northampton*, is  
this Testimony sent, who have partaked of his Ministry,  
and been refreshed with the streams of Life, that often run  
through him among you, to whom my Soul sendeth Greet-  
ing, and wisheth unto you all Love, Life, Mercy, and  
Peace. Amen.

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1664.

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A True and Faithful Testimony concerning *John Samm*, the Servant of the Lord, who finished his Course, by laying down his life in *Northampton Goal*, for the Truth of *Jesus*, the 26. of the 1st. Month, 1664.

**D**Early Beloved of the Lord, although many of you are not ignorant of the departure of *John Samm*, out of the body, and for what cause he was in outward bonds, (which was for meeting with the servants of the Lord) and what his Life and Conversation was, together with the Ministry committed to him by the Lord, as well as his faithful discharge thereof, is well known unto you; and I might be silent if this were the only end, to tell you of these things; for is there such a stranger in Israel, among you all, as knows them not: But notwithstanding, I have a Testimony in my heart from the Lord on this behalf, and do desire it may find acceptance with you, to stirre up your pure minds, to be sensible of all the Lords dealings with you in your own particulars, and also of his providences and disposings of those, that are near and dear unto you all, as I know this Servant of the Lord *J. S.* was, unto all that thoroughly knew him, and had inward acquaintance with him.

For his Education, it is well known in *Bedfordshire* where he dwelt; as also his Conversation, which was just and honest among men, before he was convinced of the Truth; for the sake of which he suffered five or six times Imprisonment several times together, for bearing testimony to the same Truth which at last he sealed with his life in *Northampton Goal*,

where he first suffered Imprisonment, about the year 1656. in which prison he ended his dayes, as he foretold, saying, *Northampton* was the first, and will be the last.

For his Life and Conversation, I can speak to it; for I was perfectly acquainted with him, both outwardly as a man, and inwardly as a Christian; as a man, he was endowed with a competent measure of understanding, and did improve it, unto that end (in the managing of the Creation) for which it was given him: being discrete, sober, and of good report among men, and his carriage courteous and loving unto all; much more might be said of this nature which Femic.

And as a Christian, he was holy and harmless, patient and meek, valiant and bold, contending earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints, and in which he himself as a Saint, did walk, live and dye: Christianity to him, was not a talk, but a life: for rather then he would deny it, he suffered loss of Estate, Liberty, and Life it self, as he did: Witness his often Imprisonment, and his laying down his life at last for the same Cause.

As a Minister, he had a dispensation of the Gospel committed unto him, in which he was a faithful labourer in the work thereof; with great zeal and fervency of Spirit, taking all opportunities and occasions in the wisdom of the Lord, (as moved by him) to deliver his message unto all people, of all estates and degrees, that he might be free from the blood of all men.

His gift was large, his utterance plain to be understood, his words savoury and powerful, not painted with mans wisdom, but as given him of the Lord, being often spoken with great Majesty, and in much Authority, cutting deep to the wounding of the wicked one in man, and easing of the poor and needy prisoner, being often mindful of the Captive Daughter of *Sion*, as of the pure Seed in deep Captivity, that he might reach it help; and when his words began to reach it, he was as one transported with joy; and when it was once raised and come forth of the prison house, the Song of *Moses* and of the Lamb was in his mouth, with much joy and great gladness of heart, unto the astonishment of the wicked, and filling the hearts

hearts of the righteous with great joy, through the overflowings of his Cup, and supersoundings of Gods love in his heart; sometimes as one taken out of the body, in which state his eyes would sparkle, and his face be full of dread, as one having authority, and not as the Scribes: Besides the melody of his voice, sometimes sounding out the high praises of the God of *Israel*, and at other times the blessed state of the righteous, as they stood in Union with the living God, and one with another. Oh how have I seen him make the earth to tremble, and the hearts of the upright to overflow with joy and gladness, through that abundance of life that hath run through his Vessel unto the forcing of water out of the Rocks, and tears out of the eyes of the Saints; unto great abundance: His Hymnes and Sounds, sometimes were as flames of fire, consuming the drossy matter, and at other times as Swords and Spears, cutting down, and thrusting through the tall Cedars, and lofty Oaks, and wild Beasts of the wilderness: Procuring an Echo to the true Seed in the living babes, which often made sweet melody in their Assemblies, when but few words were spoken by him:

Methinks I hear his Instrument still sound,  
 Making the hearts of the just to abound  
 With living praises to the God of Heaven,  
 Without one jarring string or voice un-even:  
 Though this seems strange to those that dwell below,  
 Yet what I speak, I feel and well do know;  
 And look for more to be brought forth ere long,  
 In those that yet are learning the Lambs song.

An Exhortation unto all the Righteous, especially those that were partakers of *John Samms* Ministry.

**D**id *Joseph* seek a place where to weep over *Benjamin* his Brother, though yet alive? And can ye, Oh ye Sons and Daughters of *Joseph*, refrain from mourning for the loss of a Father to many children, whom he had begotten in the Lord?

Lord? And is there a time when the true Embassador of Peace may weep bitterly? Oh can it be more seasonable at any time, then when the Lord takes away the Righteous from the evil to come? And hath he not done so to many Valiants of late, whose Trumpets Alarm'd the World; and made many dead to arise at the sound thereof? What was the cause, and wherefore the Lord hath done it, becomes every one to make enquiry in their own hearts; and the rather, because there is need, yea great need, of Valiants in this day, the Harvest being great, and the Labourers few. And why the Lord should lessen the number, seems to challenge a diligent enquiry, at every ones hand, to find out the cause thereof; And let me stir ye up, oh all ye that love the Lord, to search every own his own heart with the light of Jesus; And for this, let my Harp also be turned to mournings, and my Organ into the voice of them that weep; For indeed I will tell you, oh ye Children of my Father, my Soul hath deeply considered this matter; And I have this Answer, the Lord will do what pleaseth him, with the Instruments of his choosing, and who hath been his Counsellor? He will raise up, and lay a fide at pleasure; for he will have no Idols of jealousie in this his day, least it come to pass, as when he made the brazen Serpent, a *Nebishtan*: Neither will he have his work neglected, nor his Servants slighted, whom he sends forth in Life and Power; He would have his People to wait upon him, in their own measures, every one as they have received, in it to keep close unto him, that they all may be taught of him, and have the rejoycings in themselves, and not in another: And the Lord will yet raise up Instruments to fulfil his purpose, for his work shall prosper; and by all these wayes and dealings of his, he would have his Childrens Hearts made loose to all things under the Sun, with their Lamps burning, and lights shining, having the loyns of their minds girt about with the Girdle of Truth; keeping close unto the Lord with a pure heart, that he may yet further make known unto them his mind and will; for although you are now become the Sons of God, it doth not yet appear what ye shall be; but this know, the more and oftner ye see him, the liker to him ye shall be; and let this be  
your

your care, that he may be alwayes before you, that you may not be moved: And my dear friends, keep low in your minds, and delight to be often in the deeps with God: Oh watch, I even beseech you all as dear Brethren, that by the Lords taking away of his Servants of late, that have been blessed Instruments in his hands, you may come the nearer unto that Teacher, and hear his voice daily, which cannot be removed into a corner; that ye may all say in truth of heart, we are come unto that Ministry which cannot be taken away by reason of death; Oh that you may all feel more of this Ministry in your Assemblies daily, and keep in that seed of life, where you live with the spirits of those just men, whose bodies are removed from you: Indeed I feel, I feel the Lord mightily at work in this his day, be but still, and you will see his wonders in the dayes past: Let love abound among you as at the beginning, and be pure and clean in heart, and you will see by all Gods dealings, what he aims at, which is certainly, to raise up his own life in you all, over all the world, unto his own praise, and your joy for ever: And all you that are sensible of the taking away of dear F. S. as being often refreshed by his life, and comforted through his Ministry, sink ye down, sink ye down into the fountaine, from whence he hath all his supplies, and drink ye of the same, blessing the Lord that the fountaine is in Christ the promised Seed, unto whom feel your daily access: Oh ye beloved of the Lord, and say in your hearts with my soul, O God, it is enough that we have thy self to go unto, and that we can in thy life enjoy communion with the spirits of the just ones; And lift up your heads over all the world, and be not dismayed with any amazement, either inward or outward, for your Redeemer lives, and your Ransomer will not tarry; and you that are full of sorrow, by reason of your temptations and tryals, which are many, and that your own strength is so small; I say unto you all, lift up your heads: For you that cannot live without Christ, but feel your daily need of him, He will not, not, leave you nor forsake you, for thou art the true heir of him, that cannot live without him, to thee he will come, and will not tarry; and in the mean time, as a good Souldier endure



dure the hardship: It is but yet a little while, and he will appear without sin unto thy souls Salvation: For I feel thee, and do grieve for thee.

Oh thou well beloved how are my cries unto my God for thee, who lament in thy spirit for want of the Lord, and can hardly be perswaded of his love to thee; thou art so uncomely in thine own eyes, and thou lookest upon his dealings, both within, in thy spirit, and without, in his taking away those instruments whom thou lovest, and by whom thou wast refreshed, being in wrath against thee, and for thy sake: Well I know thee, and am to testify unto thee, in mine and thy Fathers Name, that he doth behold thee, and his eyes do pity thee, and he is waiting to be gracious unto thee, that in an acceptable time he may commend his love unto thee, and thy Salvation is sure: Oh thou traveling Soul, and I could even put my Soul in thy Soule stead to ease thee a little.

Well, my cries are for thee, and it is prayed that thy faith fail not: So unto our God give up, and when thou art sinking as to the bottom of sorrow, there is a hand to support thee, and thou wilt feel it in the lowest dungeon, and darkest deep. Be thou still, and my God will be thy Interpreter, to let the see, know, and understand thy state and condition; with whom I leave thee, in that bosom where *Lazarus* dwells safely, and at last, when *Dives* is tormented, and hath not one drop of that mercy with which thou art filled, to the praise of our God for ever. Amen.

The free flowings forth of my pure soul to J. S.  
whose Decease I do condole as followeth:

OH thou Valiant, was thy time so bounded,  
That death had no power (till thou had sounded?)  
To stop thy voice, or hinder thy sweet life,  
From thoroughly conquering black envious strife:  
Well, well, It is enough what thou hast done,  
Who in thy day with patience did runne



The race of the nobly descended,  
 And would not be stopt till life was ended:  
 What? Shall I speak thy commendation;  
 Or tell thy loss by lamentation;  
 To neglect the first, seems to injure thee,  
 And to pass by the last is so to me,  
 As well as to many brethren more,  
 Who for thee can scarce reſtaine to weep ſore;  
 So then I muſt ſpeak ſomething to thy fame,  
 Who as a Miniſter waſt made a flame,  
 To kindle the ſparke that in Ember lay  
 Rak't up all night, in dark until the day;  
 Whoſe light ſhin'd clearly in thy holy breaſt,  
 As all that knew thee well muſt needs atteſt,  
 As I my ſelf (for one) can truly ſay,  
 That light in thee ſhin'd clear as perfect day,  
 To the enlightning many with thy ſunne,  
 Whoſe feet before in darkneſs haſt had runne;  
 For who could withſtand thy life, Oh dear John!  
 And not to thy words bow, or elſe be gone;  
 So powerful at times waſ thy ſweet voice,  
 That to be in thy preſence waſ my choice;  
 And beſides thy comforting of them that mourn'd,  
 Many from darkneſs, to day-light waſ turn'd;  
 All ſorts of men by thee received good,  
 For thou waſt waſh't from ſinne, with Jeſus blood;  
 Which made thy journey Peace, and thy end gaine,  
 In deſpight of death, and all outward paine,  
 Which waſ not a little in that noiſome place,  
 But that life over all did thee embrace;  
 While thou liv'd, thy life made many tremble,  
 And in thy death, who can thee reſemble?  
 Both for the patience which in thee dwelt,  
 As alſo for thoſe ſounds which many felt,

Flow from thee, like sweet streams of quickning life;  
 Which often in others have ceased strife;  
 And made great Babylon to tremble sore,  
 As well as the Scarlet and painted whore,  
 Against whom he warr'd as a valiant man,  
 And did not cease till his strength was gone;  
 Which lasted till his breath began to faile,  
 For while he had any, he would not vaile,  
 But kept his ground, and stoutly made it good;  
 And seal'd at last, the conquest with his blood;  
 In that prison, where he at first was cast  
 For the same cause, for which he breath'd his last:  
 Oh dear John, while I'm speaking of thy praise,  
 I am as one dazzled with the bright rays  
 Of that heavenly glory which Crown'd thy soul,  
 From whence I cannot get thee to condole,  
 But a voice within me cries, Be thou gone  
 Out of thy vessel, and wear the same Crowne;  
 Well I come, O God, with what speed I may,  
 Help me to finish the work of my day;  
 For haste I do, with all my strength and might,  
 Out of this house of clay to take my flight:  
 I come, I come, my work is almost done,  
 It's finish'd so soon as this storm is gone;  
 Let the winds blow loud, and rain fall hard,  
 And the Seas roar, and waters swell a pace,  
 But thy great works, O God do not retard,  
 Till thou become thy peoples dwelling place;  
 Let Judas do with speed, what he's to doe,  
 That true friends may be known from deadly foe;  
 And thy Jewels made up in light of all;  
 And that they which saw thee, no more may fall;  
 But that the holy men be holy still,  
 And no destroyer on all thy bly.

But

But whither am I going in such haste?  
 Is th' blessed day at hand for this great feast?  
 Methinks my heart is filled with great joy  
 To behold this good day so very nigh.  
 While many like the Prophets servant say,  
 With us it's night, but with the enemies day;  
 That's because, the eyes not opened to see  
 Jehovah's strength, which is greater for me  
 Then all the world, or death and hell beside,  
 Which to them is known that in light abide;  
 Times and seasons are in the Fathers hand,  
 And let them fear who build upon the sand:  
 But my soul sees the work already done,  
 Which is the throwing down of Babylon  
 The great, into woe, grief, and constant paine,  
 There to lye, and never to rise again;  
 How can I now any longer withhold,  
 From condoling for him, that was so bold  
 To bear his testimony for the Lord  
 Against Babylons wages, by him abhorr'd;  
 Who like Davids worthies, brake through the host  
 To refresh the thirsty, and find the lost,  
 And such a one was he of whom I speak,  
 Let the sence of Truths great loss, your hearts break;  
 For many such Souldiers are not behind,  
 Whose ease, estate, and life, could not him bind  
 From ventring all in Gods righteous cause,  
 Unto the end for which he valiant was,  
 In liberty, in bonds, in life, in death:  
 Oh how faithful was he until last breath;  
 He stood fast 'gainst all that did gain say,  
 None being able to turn his mind away;  
 Saying often from his heart, in true love,  
 And zeal unto Gods wayes, and pretious dove;

(Meaning the Seed alone without a mate,)  
 Mind the poor and needy in all your breasts,  
 Which maggots alone, while crafty souls have nests;  
 And foxes have their holes to hide their heads,  
 It often waketh when others slept in beds;  
 His care was still, that it might live and raig;  
 That nothing might its Fathers love restrain;  
 Was not this that love the Lambs ought to have  
 From true Pastors, who seek their sheep to save;  
 Yes, yes, and such are after Gods own heart,  
 That to save the sheep, they would feel the smart;  
 Methinks I feel his life, and hear his hymne;  
 Heark, heark, doth it not make the babe to singe,  
 In those that remember his dwelling place?  
 Wast not in great peace over all disgrace?  
 Heeding nothing more then to be with God,  
 As his dwelling place from all stroke and rod;  
 Well, hast ye thither, all ye chosen Flock,  
 That ye may dwell with him on Sions Rock;  
 In the dear Seed, where still he lives with you  
 In that union, where they are no more two,  
 But one with him, and me, and all in life,  
 And so your loss is gain, and end of strife;  
 Unto which life with him, God bring us all,  
 Where the loss is repair'd to great and small.  
 Well dear John, with thee is my soul at rest;  
 For now I feel thou dwellest within my breast;  
 Feel ye the same, ye dearest Lambs of love,  
 For he's a mate to thee thou loansome Dove;  
 And ye sweet children of your father dear,  
 Both inward and outward be of good cheer;  
 Your Father lives, and so shall do for aye,  
 Let his Counsel be embrac't, and obey;

So shall all be made up in safety and peace,  
 With sweet gaine to your souls, and good encrease,  
 Where our home is, who dwell and rest in life  
 Far from all sorrow, out of all bate and strife  
 In one house, where we all have our bread sure;  
 Feed, feed ye babes, for it will still endure:  
 Farewel dear babes, and with our Father dwell  
 At home in God, with us, in sight of hell.  
 And thus to him, and you, I have paid my debt,  
 And to all the upright that with us met;  
 I take my leave, and rest in that, Amen,  
 After whom, the just cryes, how long? when, when?

By *John Crook*, now Prisoner in *Ipswich*  
 Town-Goal for the same cause, for  
 which dear *J. S.* layed down his life;  
 written the 7th of the 2d. Month, 1664.

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**F**Riends in the Counties before-mentioned, or where this  
 may come, This is my Testimony which I had in my  
 heart to bear for that faithful man *John Samm*, who was a  
 Minister and sufferer for the Truth of *Jesus*, who hath now  
 finished his Testimony in faithfulness, a prisoner in *Northamp-*  
*ton*; by me who for some years have had a right knowledge  
 of him, and his integrity and faithfulness to Gods eternal  
 Truth, of which he was made partaker: He was a man of a  
 sound mind, and of an upright heart, a lover of righteousness,  
 and hating iniquity; Him the Lord was pleased to choose,  
 with the first in the County of *Bedford*, who made him sensi-  
 ble of the living word in his heart, by which the Lord brought  
 him to know the work of Redemption, who Redeemed him  
 out

out of the worlds wayes and worships, and brought him to Truth in the inward parts, which truth he knew to be powerful, which set him free from much which did entangle him, and feeling the power of it, the Lord chose him to bear testimony in words unto it, which he received not of man, nor by man, but of the free gift from the Lord, and when he had received it, to wit, the Truth in the inward parts, and his mind to it turned, then did he feel the sweet streams of the Lords love to his thirsty soul, by which his heart was often filled with joy and great rejoycing; and also the Lord in the strength of his Love, and in the sense of the living vertue of his life, did open his mouth in praises to the Lord, to the great refreshment and comfort of his children, who were begotten by the same word of power unto the feeling of the life by which he was filled; many times as a Cup that overflows: and a good understanding had the Lord given him of the mysteries of his Kingdom; and of those things which he had heard, learned, and received of the Lord in the light of his Son, that did he faithfully communicate unto others, in the demonstration of the Spirit of God, in season, and out of season, without respect of time, place, or person; yea, prosperous was he made in the hand of the Lord, to the convincing of many in the Counties where he travelled, and to the turning of many from darkness to light, from Sathans power to God; and a good instrument (he was) of comfort to the tempted ones, and a refresher of the weak ones, and a confirmer of the tender hearted in that present Truth which they had received; and these words would run through him often, saying on this wise, As every one hath received Christ the Light, so let him walk in it: And he was also a man full of love, and very zealous for the Lord, but not without knowledge; for a living sense he had of the heavenly power of God, by which he was filled many times, as with new Wine; and would often say, Who is able to containe of this heavenly Vertue, and not praise the Name of the Lord: And the Lord, his Truth and People, was dear unto him, for whose sakes he often suffered imprisonment, and spoyling of his goods; and did rather choose to suffer affliction upon Truths account,

with



with the people of the Lord, then to enjoy the pleasures of this life for a season ; or sinne against the light of Christ Jesus, which did shine in his heart, and give him the knowledge of the Glory that's Eternal ; for the enjoyment of which, this world and it's glory, was of little value to him ; and both in prison, and out of prison, the Lord did accompany him with his heavenly presence, and many times fill him with the vertue of his life, by which his heart was engaged to the Lord. These things I can boldly speak of him, having a right knowledge of him, being once cast into prison with him, because we could not break the command of Christ, in sinning against his Light, which sayed in us, Swear not at all, according as is recorded in the Scriptures of Truth ; for which at that time we suffered eighteen weeks Imprisonment, with many more of the servants of the Lord, who kept the Commandments of God, and had the Testimony of Jesus ; and our hearts was knit together, even as Jonathans was to David ; and as Iron sharpeneth Iron, so did the Lord by the manifestation of his love and life in our hearts, cause us often to refresh each other. Well, what might I speak my Friends, in Truth, of our deceased Brother, who fainted not unto the end, who hath now finished his Course, and made not Shipwreck of Faith and a good Conscience, but hath kept the Faith, and in it is fallen asleep ; and now his bodily presence we here no more shall see, but his life is amongst us, and is felt with the faithful ; for while it was contained in that narrow compass, he would often say, There's no straitness in the Lord, but the straitness is of man : And he would say, How doth one drop from the presence of the Lord, cause the Cup to overflow ; saying, Who is able to containe of the excellent streams of Life, and not praise the living God. O my Friends, amongst whom he traveled, feel his life among you, and remember his labour of love, for the labour of the Righteous tendeth to life ; and for this end did he travail, labour, and suffer to death, as a valiant in Israel, that many might be made partakers of the like precious faith, which he knew to overcome and to give victory, and to preserve him to the Lord, that so being made partakers of the riches of Gods grace, rejoycing in themselves, they might witness this was the earnest desire of his Soul ; surely



fully the memorial of the Righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance, but the name of the wicked shall rot: So this is my testimony on the behalf of that valiant man, who counted not his life dear to himself, that he might finish his course with joy.

And now dear Friends and Brethren, whom the Lord hath called in this the day of his mighty Power, and hath made you partakers of his Divine nature, and hath caused the windows of Heaven to open, and hath shoured down of the verities of his life upon you, and ye who have often felt the sweet influences of the Fathers love unto your souls; be not over much troubled at this our loss, but feel his life among you, for affliction cometh not out of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground, yet man is born to trouble, as the spark fly upward, as saith Job, but the Lord is the support and deliverer of the Righteous; and he is their present help in the needful time, who brings them to their expected end in peace, as he hath this our friend, in a good age, like as a shock of Corn cometh in, in it's season.

And now ye children of the Lord, born of the same birth, wait ye for the streamings forth of the Lords love into all your souls, that you may be as channels, or as water courses, through which the Lord causeth the water of life to run, that you may not only be comforted in your selves, but may have wherewithal to comfort others; keep in the tenderness and love one to another, as children of one Father; all sucking at the same breasts of Consolation, by which the Lords people in all ages were consoled, that ye may grow up together as trees of Righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that a blessing in his hand ye may be, and by his living power, to the end ye may be preserved, to the glory and to the praise of the Lord: This as a testimony for that servant of the Lord J. S. whom I dearly loved, with a short Salutation of love, to the children of the first born,

The 21<sup>st</sup> of the 2d.  
Month, 1664.

By one who suffers for the same Testimony, for  
which our Brother layed down his life;  
Prisoner in the Town Goal of Ipswich in  
Suffolk, your Friend

THOMAS GREEN.

FINIS.

